

Appl. No. 09/866,269
Office Action mailed May 20, 2004
Amendment transmitted July 30, 2004

Attorney Docket 10808/27

REMARKS

1. The application was filed with 23 claims. Claims 2, 3, 5-14 and 17-19 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, 15 and 16 have been cancelled. The Examiner is thanked for withdrawing previous rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The Examiner is also thanked for allowing Claims 7-14 and 17-19, and Claims 2, 5, and 6 if they are amended to incorporate all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

2. Claim 3 is rejected as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended Claim 3 in a non-narrowing manner to better claim the invention. The amendment is non-narrowing because the amendment makes it clear that a four-transistor device may be combined with two additional transistors to yield a six-transistor delay unit. Applicant submits that the amendment overcomes the rejection and requests that the Examiner allow amended Claim 3.

3. The Examiner has rejected Claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,680,064 to Satoru Masaki et al. ("Masaki"). The rejection states that Fig. 2 of Masaki substantially discloses the circuit described by Claim 1 of the present application, as well as Claim 4.

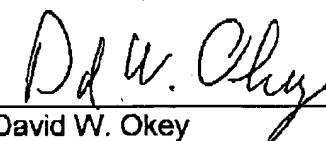
The Examiner has indicated that Claims 2, 5, and 6 are allowable if they are amended to include all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The undersigned has amended Claims 2, 3, 5, and 6 in a non-narrowing manner to take advantage of the Examiner's allowance. The claims are non-narrowing because the Examiner indicated the claims were allowable, and the claims have been amended simply to include the limitations already included by virtue of the dependency of each claim. No new matter has been added in amending the claims. Support for the amended Claims is found at least in the claims as filed.

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4. Applicant again thanks the Examiner for withdrawing previous rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), and for allowing a number of the claims. Claims 1 and 4 have been cancelled and Claims 2, 3, 5, and 6 have been amended in a non-narrowing manner. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to advance the Application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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